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Remarks

Claims 25-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,986) in view of Call '441 (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,441). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that a factual error has been made in the rejection of the independent claims, and thus a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made.

Regarding independent claims 25-26, 29, 32-33, 36, 39-40 and 43, Bowman et al. does not disclose or suggest performing a search to find one or more books of interest to a user based on a similarity between a search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of books that are purchasable via an electronic commerce computer site. Similarly, regarding independent claims 27, 34, 41 and 46-47, Bowman et al. does not disclose or suggest performing a search to find one or more books of interest to a user based on a similarity value between a search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of purchasable books.

In contrast, Bowman et al. discloses searching a bibliographic database 133 that includes titles, authors, publishers, subject descriptions and ISBNs of book titles (see column 5, lines 40-46), but does not disclose or suggest searching the full text of the books.

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As further evidence, FIG. 2 in Bowman et al. shows an example book search page that is used to perform field-restricted searches of the author, the title and the subject information in the bibliographic database 133 (see column 6, lines 7-15). The book search page also provides links to an ISBN search, a publisher/date search and a quick search. However, Bowman et al. does not disclose or suggest searching the full text of the books from the book search page.

Like Bowman et al., Call '441 does not disclose or suggest the aforementioned limitations of the independent claims. Since all of the claim limitations are not taught or suggested in the combination of Bowman et al. and Call '441, the independent claims are patentable over Bowman et al. in view of Call '441.

Further, the Examiner has based the rejection of the independent claims on column 31, lines 17-60 of Call '441. To determine the effective date of this text, Applicant has reviewed U.S. Patent Nos. 6,154,738 and 5,913,210 because the Call '441 patent is a division of Application No. 09/316,597 filed on May 21, 1999 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,154,738), which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/049,426 filed on March 27, 1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,913,210). Applicant cannot find the text of column 31, lines 17-60 of Call '441 within U.S. Patent No. 5,913,210. Thus, Applicant believes that the effective date of the text of column 31, lines 17-60 of Call '441 is May 21, 1999 or later.

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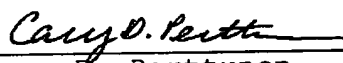
In contrast, the present application is a continuation of Application No. 09/243,595 having a filing date of February 3, 1999. Thus, the present application's effective filing date antedates the effective date of the text of column 31, lines 17-60 of Call '441. This is a second reason why Applicant believes a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made.

Still further, Applicant believes that Call's silence with regard to a full text of a book should not be construed as disclosing an act of making the full text, which was used to perform the search, inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site or the computer site.

Thus, for any one or more of the above reasons, Applicant submits that the independent claims and any claim depending therefrom are patentable over Bowman et al. in view of Call '441.

Applicant submits that the present application is in a condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicant at the telephone number below if any additional issues need to be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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